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ABSTRACT

Frequently, firearm fatalities occur in the context of domestic violence, suicide, or acts committed under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. Because gun violence is related to these other social problems, it must be considered more than just a criminal justice issue. It is also a public health issue that should be addressed by domestic violence prevention advocates, suicide prevention groups, and substance abuse prevention coalitions on a regular basis. This Action Kit is designed to encourage those who are working to prevent domestic violence, suicide, and alcohol and other drug abuse to become well-educated about the links between each of these problems and gun violence; integrate this knowledge into work and activities with peers and clients; and lend support to local prevention activities, such as those that support tougher gun policies or increase public awareness. Examples are offered of short-term and long-term strategies that can be implemented in communities to support local efforts to stem the tide of gun violence. A directory of organizations is included. (GCP)

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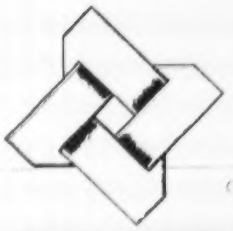

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Spring 2002

ACTION KIT

Gun Violence:
Making Connections with Suicide, Domestic Violence, and Substance Abuse

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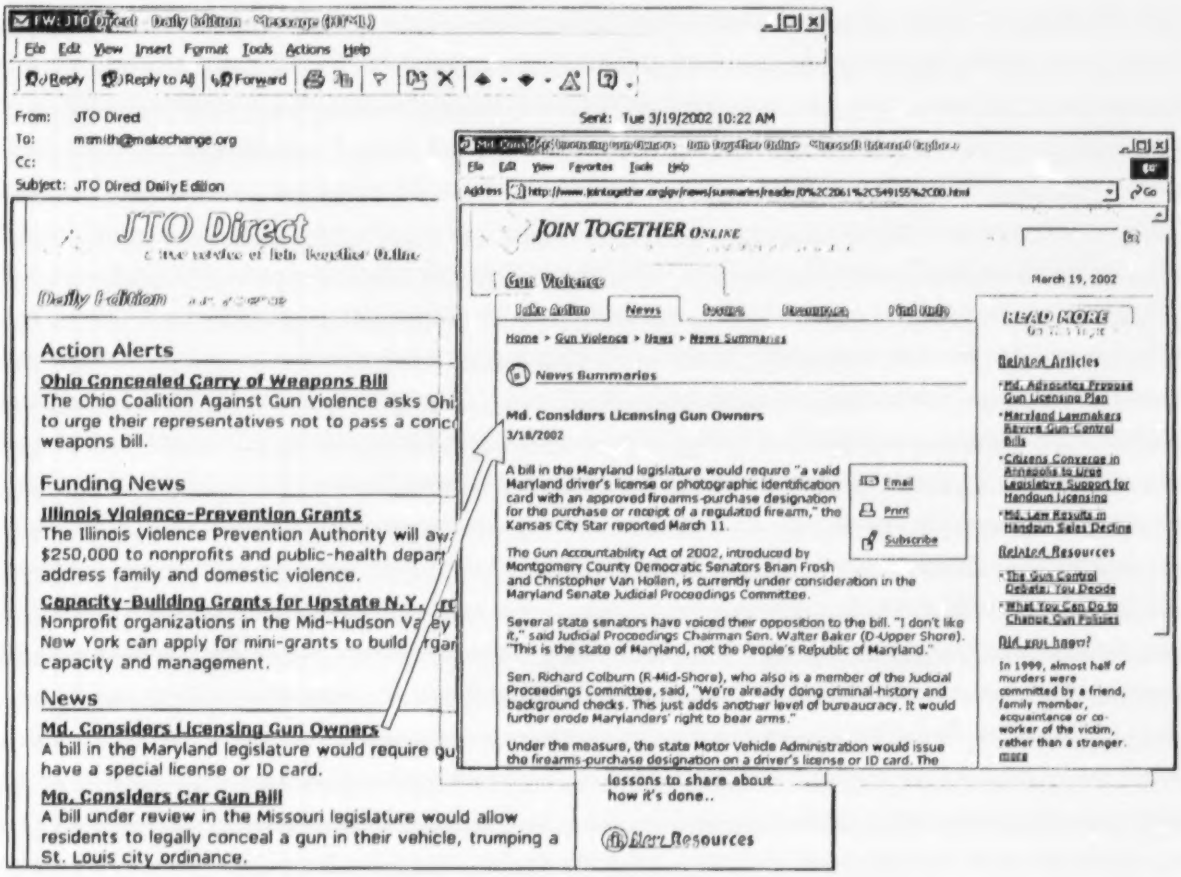
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Capacity-Building Grants for Upstate N.Y.
Nonprofit organizations in the Mid-Hudson Va ey
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News
Md. Considers Licensing Gun Owners
A bill in the Maryland legislature would require gu
have a special license or ID card.
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Gun Violence
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News Summaries
Md. Considers Licensing Gun Owners
3/18/2002
A bill in the Maryland legislature would require "a valid Maryland driver's license or photographic identification card with an approved firearms-purchase designation for the purchase or receipt of a regulated firearm," the Kansas City Star reported March 11.
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The Gun Accountability Act of 2002, introduced by Montgomery County Democratic Senators Brian Frosh and Christopher Van Hollen, is currently under consideration in the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.
Several state senators have voiced their opposition to the bill. "I don't like it," said Judicial Proceedings Chairman Sen. Walter Baker (D-Upper Shore). "This is the state of Maryland, not the People's Republic of Maryland."
Sen. Richard Colburn (R-Mid-Shore), who also is a member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, said, "We're already doing criminal-history and background checks. This just adds another level of bureaucracy. It would further erode Marylanders' right to bear arms."
Under the measure, the state Motor Vehicle Administration would issue the firearms-purchase designation on a driver's license or ID card. The
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Injury and death from firearms are among the most pressing public health issues facing Americans today. In 1999, a total of 28,874 persons died in the United States from firearm injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, approximately 180,000 people were injured by firearms that same year, resulting in a staggering cost of more than $3.4 billion in medical costs. Figuring in lost productivity, emotional and physical rehabilitation for victims, family members and loved ones, and other costs, the annual price tag for gun-related injuries and deaths adds up to more than $127 billion. But the monetary impact of gun violence tells only one part of the story. The effects of gun violence on families, friends and communities are overwhelming.

Yet, gun violence is preventable! From 1993 to 1999, firearm-related fatalities dropped by more than 10,000 as the result of interventions such as more effective gun control laws, better community violence prevention strategies and increased law enforcement activity.

While this is good news, still more needs to be done to save lives. Collectively, we need to better understand not only the price we all pay for gun violence, but more importantly, what can be done about it. We also need to increase public awareness so that the public better understands the circumstances and causes of gun violence. For example, many people view gun violence as acts that are perpetrated on individuals by strangers. In fact, in many cases the opposite is true. Victims of gun violence are more often than not known by their assailants. Frequently, firearm fatalities occur in the context of domestic violence, suicide or acts committed under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. Because gun violence is related to these other social problems, it must be considered more than just a criminal justice issue. It is also a public health issue that should be addressed by domestic violence prevention advocates, suicide prevention groups, and substance abuse prevention coalitions on a regular basis.

Join Together has been working with communities to prevent substance abuse for the past ten years, and to prevent gun violence since 1996. Both of these public health problems are national in scope, but they can best be addressed at the local level with community-wide solutions. When activists and practitioners from various fields combine their resources and experience to work together, real achievements can be accomplished. This Action Kit is designed to encourage you, along with others who are working to prevent domestic violence, suicide, and alcohol and other drug abuse, to:

- become well-educated about the links between each of these problems and gun violence;
- integrate this knowledge into your work and activities with peers and clients; and
- lend your support to local prevention activities, such as those that support tougher gun policies or increase public awareness.

To help get you started, this kit provides facts, resources and action steps you can use to better educate yourself, your colleagues, the media, elected officials and others about the links between suicide, domestic violence, substance abuse and gun violence. We also offer examples of short-term and long-term strategies you can implement in your own community to help support local efforts to stem the tide of gun violence. We urge you to work closely with groups in your area who are already working hard to reduce the toll that firearms take.

Please tell us how you plan to use the information in this kit. Complete the fax form enclosed in the back of this action kit. Or, you can send an email to: **info@jointogether.org**

Additional copies of "*Making Connections*" can be downloaded from the Join Together website at **www.jointogether.org/gv/resources/connections** or requested by calling (617) 437-1500.

Suicide and Guns

While many suicide prevention practitioners have extensive knowledge about the connection between depression and suicide, fewer are trained to think about the deadly combination of mental illness with firearms. Yet suicide and gun violence are closely related. In fact, 60 percent of suicide deaths involve a firearm. That's why suicide prevention advocates cannot effectively address suicide problems without also looking at their relationship with firearm's dangers as well.

Studies suggest that more suicides can be prevented in homes where there is a depressed individual if

- there is greater knowledge about the dangers of guns in the home;
- firearms are removed from the home;
- firearms kept in the home are stored securely—locked, unloaded and ammunition stored separately; and
- guns were better regulated and had more effective safety features.

The U.S. Surgeon General's National Strategy for Suicide Prevention identifies easy access to guns as a risk factor for suicide and urges clinicians, health care providers and others to ask patients, families and other caregivers about the presence of lethal means of self-harm. If you counsel people in crisis, advise them to remove firearms from their homes.
For more information: **www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention/strategy.asp**

Integrating awareness about the dangers of gun access into the overall agenda for suicide prevention advocates makes sense. This knowledge has the potential to save lives by reducing the risk that a person with mental illness will gain access to a loaded gun. Delaying access to lethal means can provide a valuable opportunity for an adult in suicide crisis or an impulsive young person to seek help. That's why it's important that suicide prevention clinicians, mental health advocates, youth workers and others join in the fight to reduce gun-related deaths.

Know the facts:

- Contrary to popular belief, most gun deaths are suicides, not homicides. In 1999, out of 28,874 people killed by firearms, 16,599 were suicides. (Centers for Disease Control)

- The risk of suicide of a household member is increased by nearly five times in homes with guns. (Kellermann, 1992, New England Journal of Medicine)

- Firearms are now the most common method of suicide for women, a change from 1970 when poisoning was the leading method of suicide for women. (National Center for Health Statistics)

- Firearms are used in two of three youth suicides and, unlike any other attempted method, are most likely to be fatal. (National Center for Health Statistics)

- Seventy-one percent of suicides committed by older Americans involved a firearm. (National Center for Health Statistics)

Community Action Step: Making the Link Between Suicide and Gun Violence
In Iowa, 80 percent of all gun deaths are suicides. This tragic fact prompted Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence (IPGV), a state-based gun violence prevention organization, to host the first regional conference in the United States to focus exclusively on the links between suicide and guns. This groundbreaking event, co-sponsored by the Foundation 2 Crisis Center and Hillcrest Family Services, brought together nearly 50 attendees from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and Minnesota to examine the links between these two issues and to get gun-related suicides onto the public health "radar screen".

According to John Johnson, president of IPGV, this June 2000 event was an important first step in raising widespread awareness about suicide and firearms and the need for these interconnected problems to be addressed by professionals working in the mental health and social service fields.

What you can do: Consider holding a similar meeting in your community with other stakeholders to help educate people about guns and suicide. To find out more about IPGV's work, visit IPGV's website at **www.ipgv.org** or email johnjohnson@mcleodusa.net.

Legislative Action Step: Supporting Effective Gun Storage Policies Can Save Lives
Take action by supporting policies that will help to reduce access to guns by people who are emotionally distraught, have suicidal tendencies or histories of mental health problems. Examples of policies that can make a difference include requirements for gun owners to safely store their guns in their homes and vehicles and/or use safety locks. You can also work with local and state officials to ensure that trigger locks are required to be sold with all new handguns to prevent unauthorized people from being able to use the weapons. In addition, you can help call attention to the need for your state to enact Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws, which provide stiff penalties for adults who leave their firearm unsecured and easily accessible to youth. Efforts such as these can help reduce suicide rates in your community.

More information on CAP laws can be found on the Join Together website at:
www.jointogether.org/gv/action/strategy/policy/law_cap
Check out Join Together Online (**www.jointogether.org**) for additional stories on the safe storage issue.

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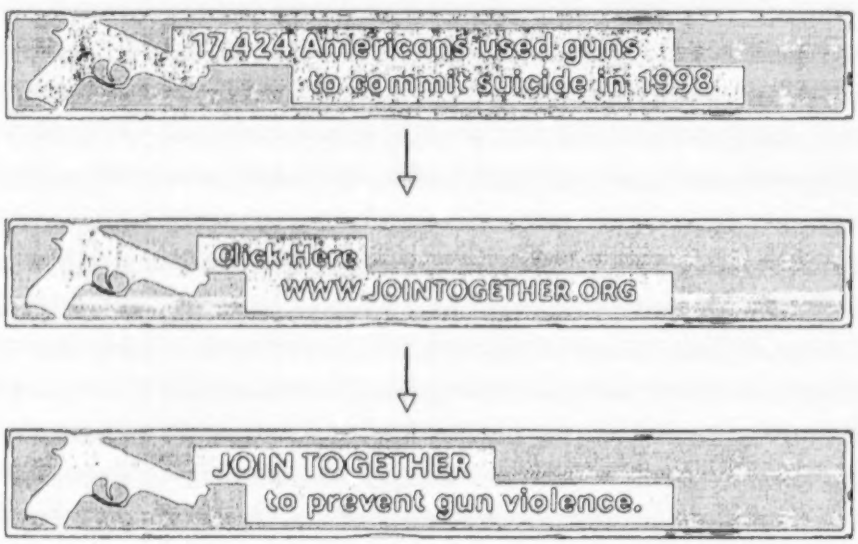

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Domestic Violence and Guns

There is a very real connection between guns and domestic violence. Guns profoundly affect the dynamics of domestic violence: they are used to intimidate, frighten, maim and kill. And firearms substantially increase the lethality of a violent interaction between family members. A New England Journal of Medicine report found that having a gun in the home increases the risk of being a murder victim by three times, and by 20 times if there has been a previous domestic violence incident in the home.

Contrary to what gun advertisements depict, purchasing a gun for self-protection does not lead to enhanced personal safety. In fact, having a gun in homes where there is domestic violence places victims at greater risk of being involved in a deadly interaction. And it's not just homicides or assaults that make guns problematic in family violence cases. Victims of abuse are at greater risk of suicide. Having guns available increases that risk even further by making it easier to act upon suicidal impulses.

Family and domestic violence advocates, clinicians, program providers and others can find meaningful ways to integrate the issue of gun violence prevention into their overall agenda. It is essential that advocates and providers who work with domestic violence survivors integrate awareness about the public health risks associated with guns into their strategy. This knowledge has the potential to save lives and will reduce the risk that a victim of domestic violence will become a victim of gun violence as well.

Know the facts:

- Nearly one-third of all women murdered in the United States in 1999 were killed by a current or former intimate partner. Guns were used in almost two-thirds of these domestic homicides. (US Department of Justice)

- In 1998, 808 women were shot and killed by their husbands or partners. (US Department of Justice)

- A 1998 study found that for every time a woman used a handgun to kill an intimate partner in self-defense, 83 women were murdered by their partners with handguns. (Violence Policy Center)

- Having one or more guns in the home makes a woman 7.2 times more likely to be the victim of a domestic homicide. (Bailey, 1997, Archives of Internal Medicine)

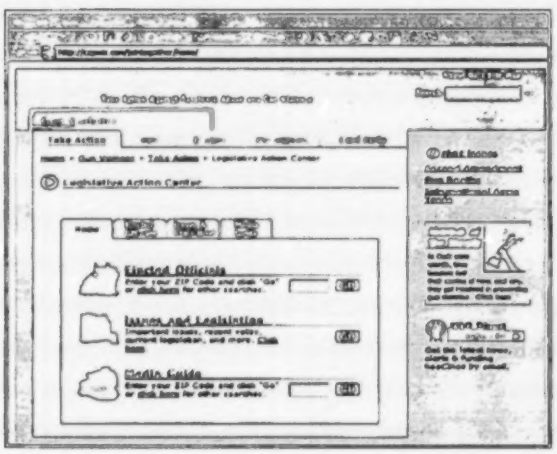
Community Action: Preventing Domestic Abusers From Gaining Access to Firearms
Should people under domestic violence restraining orders have a right to keep and bear arms? Not according to the Alliance to Enforce Domestic Violence Gun Laws, a group of organizations committed to protecting victims of domestic violence and upholding federal domestic violence gun laws. In 2001, the Alliance was successful in helping to reverse a lower district court ruling in the case of United States v. Emerson. The plaintiff, Timothy Joe Emerson, had been charged with violating a 1994 federal law that banned him from possessing firearms because he was under a domestic violence restraining order. The district court ruled that prohibiting Emerson from possessing firearms was an unconstitutional infringement of his right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment. The Alliance, whose member organizations include the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and the Violence Policy Center, supported the Justice Department's successful appeal of the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit which concluded that there is nothing in the Constitution that protects the rights of people

under domestic violence restraining orders to possess firearms. For more information about the Alliance, contact the Violence Policy Center at (202) 822-8200.

Legislative Action: Help Close the Gun Show Loophole
The 1993 Brady Act requires that all federally licensed firearms dealers check potential purchasers' backgrounds to be sure they have not been convicted of domestic violence or other crimes. However, a loophole in the Act allows unlicensed dealers at gun shows to sell weapons without conducting any type of background check before completing the sale. This means that anyone--including people with a history of domestic abuse--can purchase guns at these shows. National and statewide groups around the country are working hard to close this loophole on the federal and state levels.

What you can do: At the federal level, you can help by supporting legislative efforts such as the national Gun Show Background Check Act (S. 767) introduced by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI). If passed, Sen. Reed's bill would require that criminal background checks be performed prior to any gun sales, including at gun shows and flea markets. For more information about this bill, visit: **www.jointogether.org/S767** or contact the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence at (202) 898-0792, or Physicians for Social Responsibility at (202) 667-4260. At the local level, to find out if this issue is currently being debated in your state, contact a gun violence prevention group near you by visiting the Join Together State Action Center at: **www.jointogether.org/gv/action/state**

Now there are two ways to Take Action at Join Together Online!



Legislative Action Center
http://capwiz.com/jointogether/home/
Maintained by Capital Advantage, this database allows you to look up elected officials in your area, email them directly, browse current legislation and action alerts, as well as search a highly resourceful media database searchable through various search options.

State Action Center
www.jointogether.org/gv/action/state/
Click on the name or image of your state to find organizations that can help you take action to prevent gun violence (see example). Many of the groups can provide you with materials, speakers, volunteer opportunities, and projects to work on. The health departments can supply you with state statistics and data. By participating in local efforts and becoming more familiar with the problem of gun violence in your community, you can make a difference!

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Substance Abuse and Guns

The links between substance abuse and gun violence have long been recognized. Using alcohol and other drugs can exaggerate one's reactions to situations, heighten emotions like anger and frustration, and increase aggressive behavior. Guns are often used in crimes such as burglary, theft, and robbery, which are committed to support drug addictions. Guns are also frequently wielded by those involved in the manufacturing and distribution of illicit drugs. When people who are drunk or influenced by other drugs have access to a firearm, the combination can be deadly.

The strong connections between substance use and firearms help to explain the results of a 1997 survey by the U.S. Department of Justice. More than half of all federal and state inmates who were incarcerated for murder (the majority involving guns) said that they were drunk or drugged at the time they committed their offense. There are also numerous incidents of family members, friends and children who have been unintentionally injured or killed by people who were impaired and had access to firearms.

The availability of guns, coupled with the use of alcohol and other drugs, can work counter to a community's efforts to create a safe, thriving and healthy community. Many people recognize that substance abuse coupled with access to guns is a lethal combination. Substance abuse prevention advocates, treatment providers and others who work in the alcohol and other drugs field can broaden their efforts to incorporate gun violence prevention into their overall agenda. If you counsel anyone with a substance abuse problem who has access to a gun, make sure that he or she is well aware of the facts and the risks involved in this deadly combination. While you advocate for treatment, you can also work to assure the safety of your client and others by counseling about guns.

Consider the following facts:

- Almost 62 percent of all homicide perpetrators admitted to using alcohol the day they committed the homicide. (US Department of Justice)

- A study on the role of alcohol in firearm-related homicides involving relatives or close friends found that over 80 percent of the homicides were committed with handguns. The study also revealed that 53 percent of the victims had been drinking before the homicide and 62 percent of the offenders were under the influence of alcohol before the homicide.
  (Muscat, 1991, American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology)

- Forty-six percent of suicide victims had a positive blood alcohol concentrate (BAC), according to a study of suicides among 10-19 year-olds in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The same study found that victims who had been intoxicated were 7.4 times more likely to have died from gunshot wounds than victims who were sober.
  (Brent, 1987, Journal of the American Medical Association)

Community Action: Join Together's Survey Finds That Many Substance Abuse Groups Also Address Gun Violence Prevention
The findings of Join Together's Fourth National Survey on Community Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse and Gun Violence (released in 1999) showed that many substance abuse prevention groups are taking an active role to prevent gun violence in their communities. In fact, 28 percent of the substance abuse coalitions that responded said they took an active role on gun violence issues. These groups recognize the strong connection between the two problems. Copies of this Join Together survey can be accessed at: **www.jointogether.org/99survey** or requested by calling (617) 437-1500.

One organization that broadened its work to rally support for tougher statewide gun control policies is the Ohio Prevention Institute. With the help of a grant from the Joyce Foundation, the Institute sponsored a statewide policy panel to examine existing gun laws in Ohio and came up with a series of recommendations calling on lawmakers to enact stronger policies to help reduce gun-related deaths in the state. (The Institute has also held similar policy panels in the past dealing with issues of underage drinking and youth violence and has had success convincing policymakers to address these as broader public health issues.)

What you can do: Partner with community groups that work on substance abuse issues to lead similar efforts to raise widespread awareness about the dangers of mixing alcohol/drugs and firearms and show your support for effective laws governing the use, possession and storage of firearms.

Legislative Action: Restricting Concealed Carry Laws Could Help Save Lives
Effective policies that prevent people from being allowed to carry concealed weapons (CCW) in public can be an important way to reduce incidents of substance abuse and gun violence. Concealed carry laws can pose great danger: for example, when a person carrying a hidden weapon becomes intoxicated and uses the weapon recklessly. Despite the dangers involved with CCW, only six states today generally prohibit the carrying of a concealed weapon. Twenty-seven states are "shall issue" states, where anyone who is allowed to own guns can also obtain a CCW permit. An additional 16 states are "may issue" states, in which law enforcement agencies have the right to either grant or refuse a CCW permit. And in Vermont, any legal gun owner is allowed to carry his or her weapon concealed with no permit required.

What you can do: If your state allows CCW permits, you can help raise awareness about the dangers this can pose and advocate for tougher policies that will help keep people safe. To find out if CCW is currently being debated in your state, contact a gun violence prevention group near you by visiting the Join Together State Action Center at: **www.jointogether.org/gv/action/state**

Stay Informed About the Issues!

Join Together publishes JTO Direct, a free email news service. Each day our journalists summarize the nation's top news stories pertaining to substance abuse and gun violence prevention. Original feature stories spotlight current issues and tell the stories of local leaders who are making a difference. Selected press releases and action alerts published by major organizations in each field are also added to the news stream. Grant announcements, foundation profiles, and program funding news keep you on top of current opportunities, innovative fundraising tactics, and funding trends. While many people select the one issue that most interests them, more than 6,000 JTO Direct subscribers choose to receive updates on both substance abuse AND gun violence prevention. If you would like to receive this free service, sign up at: **www.jointogether.org/jtodirect** or return the enclosed form by fax.

What You Can Do

There are many ways you can take action to address gun violence and other social problems in your community. Some approaches outlined in this action kit are simple things you can do today, such as writing a letter to the editor of your local paper or meeting with elected officials to brief them on this issue. Other ideas, like starting a policy panel or forming a coalition, may take more work and planning on your part, but the end results will be well worth your efforts. Use a combination of these ideas -- or tailor them with other ideas of your own -- to educate people about the scope of the problem that exists locally and to create meaningful partnerships with other groups in your community. By working together, you can have a real impact on reducing gun violence and help prevent unnecessary injuries and deaths from occurring in your local community.

SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- **Use the power of the vote!** Perhaps the simplest and most powerful way that you can make a difference is to elect policymakers who will support the positions and policies you believe in. Take the time to learn about a candidate's views on sensible gun laws before you cast your vote. You may want to meet with candidates to discuss the importance of becoming active on this issue. Consider sharing local data, concrete examples and bringing people with you whose lives have been touched by gun violence in order to personalize the issue. For more information on the importance of getting out the vote, visit the League of Women Voters at: **www.lwv.org/voter/index.html**

- **Use the power of the pen!** Publicly expressing your opinion and clearly drawing the connections between gun violence and other social problems such as suicide, domestic violence and substance abuse is an important part of creating change. Write letters to your local elected officials and state representatives, as well as to the editor of your community's newspaper. Many politicians and community leaders use these letters to gauge public opinion, so a letter to the editor or to an elected official can be an effective way to draw their attention to gun violence issues. A letter to the editor can also alert other members in your community to the risks that firearms pose and encourage more people to get involved in local efforts to reduce the problems. To find contact information for legislators and media outlets, visit the Join Together Legislative Action Center: **http://capwiz.com/jointogether/home/**

- **Get the word out!** If you want to raise awareness about the connections between gun violence and other social problems, don't overlook the value of getting a dialogue started on this topic. For instance, you can begin by simply inviting friends, neighbors and colleagues to talk about the issues and brainstorm some steps you can take locally. Or you could organize an in-service training session for your colleagues, drawing on local expertise. If you lead or participate in a group working to address suicide, domestic violence or substance abuse, help develop a public awareness campaign to highlight these connections at the local level and call on elected officials to implement policies that ensure greater control of firearms. For more ideas on outreach efforts, visit: **www.jointogether.org/gv/action/strategy/outreach**

IDEAS FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE:

- **Form a coalition or working group!** One of the most effective ways to address the connection between gun violence and other problems is to join forces with other organizations. Collaboration allows organizations to connect to individuals and other groups that have current information and resources that may help to further their efforts. By bringing together your constituency bases, you will have more support than ever for your efforts. Coalitions can be very influential in forming and shaping public policies on gun violence prevention and other issues in ways that a single group may not be able to accomplish on its own. For more information about collaborations and coalition building, visit: **www.jointogether.org/gv/action/involve/collab**

- **Use data to make your case!** Use local data to highlight public health problems in your community. Find out how many people who committed suicide used firearms. Gather statistics on violent crimes in which alcohol and drug use was a factor. Find out the extent of domestic violence cases that involved a gun. If no such data has been compiled in your area, work with state agencies or public health officials to help them better capture information in the future. Sharing data and concrete examples that illustrate the full scope of the problem are essential to understanding and effectively tackling the issues. For information on a model data collection system, visit the Medical College of Wisconsin Firearm Injury Center's website: **www.mcw.edu/fic**

- **Create a policy panel!** Another influential way to tackle this issue is to create a policy panel to address the correlation between gun violence and other social problems. A policy panel brings together community leaders to study the issue and then make recommendations on what is needed from the local government to make improvements. The panel's recommendations are guided, in part, by testimony from local experts on the issue. The panel may also host a town meeting to hear residents' views on the topic. After gathering all of their research, panel members discuss what they have learned and use the information to make a series of public policy recommendations. The recommendations may be released in a formal report that is presented to elected officials and the community at large. Many communities across the country have successfully used policy panels to address policies related to underage drinking, youth crime and gun violence. For more information about creating a policy panel, visit: **www.jointogether.org/gv/action/strategy/policy/panel**

Share This Action Kit With Others!

Share the information in this Action Kit with your colleagues, peers, elected officials, local media and other groups who have a vested interest in the health, safety and well being of your community. You may freely copy and disseminate any portion or the entire publication, we just ask that you reference Join Together. Consider sending it to local media outlets with a letter from you as to why this issue is important, or send copies to your own mailing list. Pull some of the highlights included here to present in your own bulletins or newsletter. Or, link to the kit from your website so others can read it.

See page 1 for information on downloading or ordering additional copies.

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Suicide Prevention Organizations

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)
120 Wall Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (212) 363-3500
Fax: (212) 363-6237
Email: inquiry@afsp.org
Web: www.afsp.org

AFSP is dedicated to advancing knowledge about suicide and the ability to prevent it. They provide information and education about suicide, and funding for research. AFSP also provides resources and facts about the links between suicide and firearms.

American Association of Suicidology (AAS)
4201 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 408
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: (202) 237-2280
Fax: (202) 237-2282
Web: www.suicidology.org

AAS is dedicated to the understanding and prevention of suicide. AAS promotes research, public awareness programs, education and training for professionals and volunteers. AAS serves as a national clearinghouse for information on suicide, including links between suicide and firearms.

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP)
c/o The Center for Mental Health Services
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Phone: (800) 789-2647
Fax: (301) 984-8796
Web: www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention

As a joint effort of several federal agencies, NSSP's role is to disseminate news and information on suicide and suicide prevention. NSSP represents the combined work of advocates, clinicians, researchers and survivors around the nation. It lays out a framework for action to prevent suicide and guides development of services and programs to address suicide issues.

Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network (SPAN)
5034 Odins Way
Marietta, GA 30068
Phone: (888) 649-1366
Fax: (770) 642-1419
Email: act@spanusa.org
Web: www.spanusa.org

SPAN works to raise awareness about suicide, and provides support to those working on advocacy and awareness efforts at the grassroots level. SPAN provides community organizing tools and action steps for grassroots organizers.

Domestic Violence Organizations

Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF)
383 Rhode Island St. Suite #304
San Francisco, CA 94103-5133
Phone: (415) 252-8900
Fax: (415) 252-8991
Email: fund@fvpf.org
Web: www.endabuse.org

FVPF works to end domestic violence and assists women and children whose lives are devastated by abuse. FVPF educates judges to protect all victims of abuse, helps health care providers and employers identify and aid victims of abuse, and shows all Americans how to join the effort to end domestic violence. FVPF offers awareness tools, community organizing tips, tools for health care practitioners and workplace safety resources.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
P. O. Box 18749
Denver, CO 80218-0749
Phone: (303) 839-1852
Fax: (303) 831-9251
Web: www.ncadv.org

NCADV is a grassroots membership organization working to end violence in the lives of women and children. NCADV provides a national network for state coalitions and local programs serving battered women and their children, public policy at the national level, technical assistance, community awareness campaigns, general information and referrals, and publications on domestic violence.

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Suite 303
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 543-5566
Email: nnedv@bellatlantic.net
Web: www.nnedv.org

NNEDV is a membership and advocacy organization of state domestic violence coalitions. They support legislative and policy action, provide technical assistance, training and guidance to state coalitions, member programs and advocates, and build opportunities for networking and communication. NNEDV provides news and information about domestic violence, legislation and public policy, and training opportunities.

Stop Abuse for Everyone (SAFE)
PO Box 951
Tualatin, OR 97062
Phone: (503) 407-4674
Email: safe@safe4all.org
Web: www.Safe4all.org

SAFE provides advocacy, information, and support for men and women who are victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. They advocate for services for men and women, straight, gay, or lesbian. SAFE provides information and resources on domestic violence, news and announcements, a Q & A bulletin board and a speaker's bureau of domestic violence experts.

Substance Abuse Prevention Organizations

Alcohol-Related Injury & Violence Project (ARIV)
c/o The Trauma Foundation
San Francisco General Hospital
Building 1, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94110
Phone: (415) 821-8209
Fax: (415) 282-2563
Email: ariv@tf.org
Web: www.tf.org/tf/alcohol/ariv/

ARIV, a project of The Trauma Foundation, helps facilitate information exchange about alcohol-related injuries and violence. They serve as a clearinghouse of information to centralize and disseminate what is known about this issue and to build consensus for a research agenda. ARIV has resource manuals, news, facts, literature reviews, research summaries and a searchable library online.

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
901 North Pitt Street
Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (800) 542-2322
Email: info@cadca.org
Web: www.cadca.org

CADCA's mission is to build and strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create safe, healthy and drug-free communities. The organization supports its members with technical assistance and training, public policy, media strategies and marketing programs, conferences and special events.

Join Together
441 Stuart Street
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 437-1500
Fax: (617) 437-9394
Email: info@jointogether.org
Web: www.jointogether.org

Join Together is a national resource center for communities working to reduce gun violence and substance abuse. Join Together's comprehensive website is filled with information including daily-news updates, funding news, press releases, and action alerts. Join Together also has facts and statistics on links between substance abuse and violence and tools for community action.

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)
P.O. Box 2345
Rockville, MD 20847-2345
Phone: (800) 729-6686
Fax: (301) 468-6433
Email: info@health.org
Web: www.health.org

NCADI is the information service of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. It is a one-stop resource for current and comprehensive information about substance abuse prevention and treatment. NCADI provides extensive information about drug abuse and links between substance abuse and violence. Publications are also available in Spanish.

National Gun Violence Prevention Organizations

Alliance for Justice
11 Dupont Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 822-6070
Fax: (202) 822-6068
Email: alliance@afj.org
Web: www.afj.org

Americans for Gun Safety
2000 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 775-0300
Fax: (202) 775-0430
Web: www.americansforgunsafety.com

Brady Campaign and Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, United with the Million Mom March
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 898-0792
Fax: (202) 371-9615
Web: www.bradycenter.org

Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (800) CDF-1200
Email: cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org
Web: www.childrensdefense.org

Coalition To Stop Gun Violence/ Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence
1023 15th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 408-0061
Fax: (202) 408-0062
Web: www.csgv.org

Common Sense About Kids and Guns
418 C Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (877) 955-5437
Fax: (202) 546-6250
Email: info@kidsandguns.org
Web: www.kidsandguns.org

Doctors Against Handgun Injury
New York Academy of Medicine
1216 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10029
Phone: (212) 822-7377
Fax: (917) 492-0859
Email: dahi@nyam.org
Web: www.doctorsagainsthandguninjury.org

Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan (HELP) Network
2300 Children's Plaza, Box 88
Chicago, IL 60614
Phone: (773) 880-3826
Fax: (773) 880-6615
Email: contact@helpnetwork.org
Web: www.helpnetwork.org

Join Together
Boston University School of Public Health
441 Stuart Street
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 437-1500
Fax: (617) 437-9394
Email: info@jointogether.org
Web: www.jointogether.org

PAX
801 2nd Avenue, Suite 1400
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 983-8705
Fax: (212) 983-0135
Email: staff@paxusa.org
Web: www.paxusa.org

Physicians for Social Responsibility
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1012
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 667-4260
Fax: (202) 667-4201
Email: psrnatl@psr.org
Web: www.psr.org

Silent March
328 Flatbush Avenue, PMB 405
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Phone: (516) 247-9101
Email: info@silentmarch.org
Web: silentmarch.org

States United to Prevent Gun Violence
3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 109
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: (517) 332-4299
Fax: (517) 332-4392
Email: cjarvis@supgv.org
Web: www.supgv.org

Violence Policy Center
1140 19th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 822-8200
Fax: (202) 822-8205
Web: www.vpc.org

News stories, action alerts, announcements,
and funding news like these keep you up to date:
Full stories can be found on the Join Together website - www.jointogether.org

H&R Block Severs Ties with National Rifle Association
3/12/2002
A coalition of violence prevention groups announces that widespread protests have successfully led H&R Block to sever a controversial marketing agreement it had entered into with the NRA...

Gun Ownership Linked to Higher Youth Death Rates
3/5/2002
Researchers said that children who live in areas with high levels of gun ownership are more at risk for unintentional death, homicide, and suicide...

N.H. Gun Bill Would Allow Access to Mental-Health Info
3/5/2002
Legislation proposed in New Hampshire would allow state mental-health records to be checked as part of the national firearms background-check system...

National Groups Turning to Grassroots for Violence-Prevention Action
3/1/2002
Three national organizations have announced new violence-prevention programs that each contain the same twist...

Melissa Institute Grants for Violence-Prevention Research
2/26/2002
The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment is offering grants to support graduate-level research into violence prevention...

California Endowment Funds Addiction, Domestic-Violence Programs
2/20/2002
The California Endowment recently awarded $10.5 million in grants to 30 groups providing health-care services...

Group Asks Newspapers to Stop Selling Guns Through Classified Ads
2/21/2002
The National Campaign to Close the Newspaper Classified Gun Ad Loophole announces the release of a study showing that more than 75% of surveyed newspapers in 16 states allow unchecked gun sales through classified ads...

Violent Death Among Children Linked to Household Firearms
2/20/2002
A new study from the Harvard School of Public Health found that in states and regions with higher levels of household firearm ownership, many more children are dying from homicide, suicide and gun accidents...

Our readers say...

"Just wanted to let you know that your website is just wonderful. I rely on it to keep up-to-date on the most current drug prevention and gun violence issues. I've been working in prevention for nineteen years, and Join Together helps keep my "prevention enthusiasm" up!"

"I was in a web writing course recently where the instructor highlighted your web site several times as an outstanding example for web writing and layout."

"If it isn't on JTO direct, it's as though it never happened in the world of gun violence prevention."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join Together would like to know how you plan to use the information presented in this kit to help make the link between gun violence and other pressing social problems in your community? Your feedback will help us to gear our future publications toward your specific needs and activities. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and fax back this perforated form to 617-437-9394 or complete it online at: www.jointogether.org/gv/feedback

My Email address is: _____

Sign Me Up!

____Yes, please sign me up for JTO Direct, the free online news delivery email!

I want to receive updates on: ___Gun Violence ___Substance Abuse ___BOTH

Salutation _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

What issue(s) does your organization primarily address at the present time?
____ Domestic Violence ____ Suicide ____ Substance Abuse ____ Gun Violence

Are you currently involved in any coalitions or working groups that bring together other organizations in your community to work on joint issues?
___ No ___ Yes If yes, what issues: _____

What are some of the ways you might use the material provided in this kit to raise awareness about gun violence and how it relates to your efforts?

- ❑ Share it with others (For example:_____)
- ❑ Use it to build alliances with other groups
- ❑ Educate the public through the local media
- ❑ Use it to show elected officials why they should support tougher gun policies
- ❑ Other (*please explain*): _____

_____

Do you plan to start any new projects or activities as a result of the information you read?

☐Yes ☐No

If yes, please explain: _____

_____

_____

Joining Together to Stop Gun Violence

Each day, nearly 80 children and adults die needlessly from gun-related homicides, suicides and unintentional injuries, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Annually, this translates to more than 28,000 Americans killed by firearms. Of these, about 3,400 of the victims each year are children. In fact, American children are almost 12 times more likely to die from a gun injury than children in other industrialized nations.

In response to these tragic - and unnecessary - deaths, law enforcement officers, community organizers, public health officials, survivors, youth workers, faith leaders, parents and youth in communities are joining together to stop the violence.

They are lending their strength to national and state efforts which are dedicated to reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths. These groups are hard at work:

- raising awareness about the harms associated with guns through media advocacy, events and public awareness campaigns
- lobbying for more responsible gun legislation
- changing firearm-related policy
- building alliances and forming coalitions to develop and implement strategies to reduce gun violence
- conducting valuable gun-related research
- providing survivors of violence with an opportunity to share their stories and find support

These actions are making a real difference. Gun violence deaths in recent years have been decreasing, but the numbers are still too high. To find out what you can do to help prevent gun-related injuries and deaths in your community, visit Join Together Online's gun violence prevention web site at: **www.jointogether.org**

The Gun Violence Prevention web site is based on the premise that for gun violence to decrease, citizens must get involved to find solutions. To help make this possible, we provide you with the latest news in the gun violence prevention field, links to other web sites, action alerts, legislative action tools and useful statistics and funding information. For more information about the project, call Join Together at (617) 437-1500.

Join Together, a project of the Boston University School of Public Health, is funded by grants from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, and the David Bohnett Foundation.

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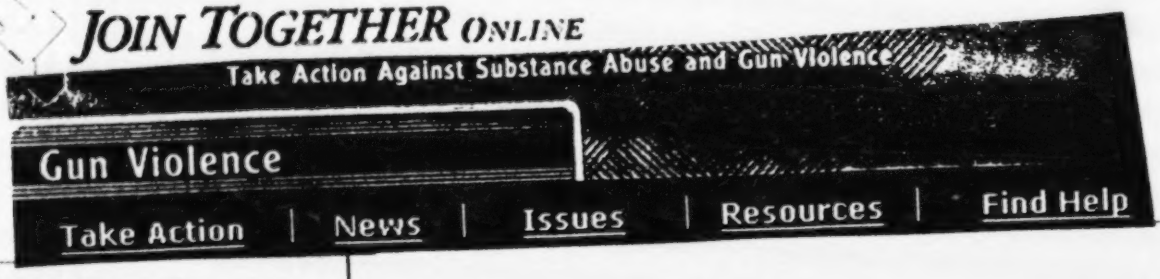
Take Action Online


JOIN TOGETHER ONLINE
Take Action Against Substance Abuse and Gun Violence
Gun Violence
Take Action | News | Issues | Resources | Find Help

Get Involved
Strategies
Legislative Action Center
State Action Center

...oves Campaign-Finance Reform Bill
...Representatives passed a landmark campaign-...moving a step closer to putting an end to unregulated "soft money" contributions to political parties.

Ashcroft Tweaks Background Checks, But Won't Release Records
U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft wants to make the nation's gun background-check more efficient, but he refused to turn gun-purchase records over to terrorism investigators.

More News

- **New Website Provides Baltimore Crime Statistics**
- **Brady Campaign Hails Passage of Campaign Finance Reform**
- **Brady: If Ashcroft is Serious About Keeping Guns Of the Wrong Hands, He Needs to do More**
- **Gun Lobby Spreads 'New Wave' of Concealed-Carry Activity**

More in News

Funding News

- **MMM Chapters Finding Grants to Continue Mission**
- **Government Innovations Award Deadlines in May**
- **Justice Department Funds Mentoring Projects**
- **IL: Grants to Prevent Youth, School Violence**

More Funding News

Take Action *Highlights*

New! Our State Action Center puts coalitions, state agencies, and legislative information for all 50 states at your fingertips.

More in Take Action

Featured in Resources

...Adolescents, and

Inside the Issues

Why has the U.S. become the world leader in firearm homicides? Explore the history and impact of gun violence in America.

More in Issues

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

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